Volume 3, No. 25 — Friday, June 20, 1997

THE TALON

Operation Joint Guard, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Serving the soldiers of Task Force Eagle

Ever ready

Sgt. Rickie Sabb (left), fire chief at Camp Comanche, and Cpl. Jerome Fryar, firefigher, hold the hose as it sprays an Apache during a fire drill on the flightline.

Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins

By Staff Sgt. Tim Erhardt
129th MPAD

Camp Comanche — Spc. Timothy Morell sits by the phone hoping it won't ring. He watches last year's top videos, skims through a *Newsweek*, and writes a letter. The phone is always within reach.

Pulling shifts from early morning until the tower closes operations, he and the other four members of the 264th Engineer Detachment (Firefighters) stationed here, know that they must be ready 24 hours a day, every day. Even though they hope each day at Camp Comanche reflects the quiet routine of the one before, if the phone does ring, they're ready.

While Morell is sleeping, the PRC 27 radio is beside his cot. If an emergency call comes in, he will

See READY page 12

Inside

Music education

Childrens Answers in Music Education as seen in the Missouri School Music Newsletter, collected by Harold Dunn.

Agnus Dei was a woman composer famous for her church music.

Refrain means don't do it. A refrain in music is the part you better not try to sing.

An opera is a song of bigly size.

John Sebastian Bach died from 1750 to the present.

Handel was half German, half Italian, and half English. He was rather large.

Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling him. I guess he could not hear so good. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died from this.

Henry Purcell is a well-known composer few people have ever heard of.

Aaron Copland is one of your most famous contemporary composers. It is unusual to be contemporary. Most composers do not live until they are dead.

A virtuoso is a musician with real high morals.

In the last scene of Pagliacci, Canio stabs Nedda who is the one he really loves. Pretty soon Silvio also gets stabbed, and they all live happily ever after.

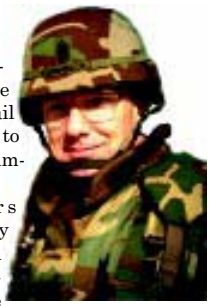
When a singer sings, he stirs up the air and makes it hit any passing eardrums. But if he is good, he knows how to keep it from hurting.

Music sung by two people at the same time is called a duel.

Caruso was at first an Italian. Then someone heard his voice and said he would go a long way. And so he came to America.

A tuba is much larger than its name.

Up Front



In the previous article, we were talking about risks. We left off recognizing that most of us do not do a very good job of ranking the accident or injury potential of activities.

There are several reasons why this is so. First, people tend to underestimate the danger of the unknown. In the same way, they are often more apprehensive in situations where they have little control of the outcome. Being a passenger instead of a driver, for example, most people are more likely to downplay or overlook the risk of activities with which they are familiar. For instance, most of us give more thought to the risk of having an automobile accident when we're on a trip than when we're driving to work. However, soldiers, as a group, are young and aggressive; it is in their nature to accept some degree of risk. Unfortunately, too many times that aggressiveness leads them to underestimate danger or fail to take steps to control or eliminate it.

Soldiers who regularly engage in high-risk behavior are betting their lives against the odds of accidental death. It's my duty to all of you to make every attempt to change that behavior, either through on-the-spot corrections or by changing attitudes through education. We all must adopt this philosophy. I am confident we will all very soon get a firm grasp on identifying, managing and reducing risk. See you all up front!

Command Sgt. Maj. S. L. Kaminski
1st Infantry Division (Forward)

Briefings

A good patrol brief sets the tone for the entire mission. A thorough brief, including a mission statement, responsibilities, actions on contact, frequencies, order of march, etc., is a must. However, for a briefing to be most effective, it must be properly delivered. What I have seen most often is the common lecture approach. One-way communication — I speak, you listen — is the norm. While this meets the requirement for a briefing, it is not the most efficient method. Since we have to do the briefing, let's get the most bang for the buck.

Start with a check list. Do not trust your memory, even on those daily routine missions. A checklist will preclude any omissions. I have some examples in the Task Force Eagle Safety Office -- give me a call if you need one, MSE 551-3382 or Sprint 762-3382.

Use two-way communication. When it comes to actions on contact, call on someone else to go through the reactions. This will do a few things for the patrol commander. First, it will give him or her an opportunity to assess whether or not the selected individual knows the procedure. Second, the rest of the patrol members get to hear someone else's voice. Third, it keeps everyone on their toes, since they do not know who will be called on next.

If time permits, conduct a few rehearsals. Remember, we will fight the way we train. Know your people, and any replacements that you may have assigned for the day. Know your people's limitations, certifications, and qualifications. When in doubt, check.

Got any ideas, email me at safoff4@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil.

Maj. Gary R. Spegal, 1st Infantry Division Safety Officer

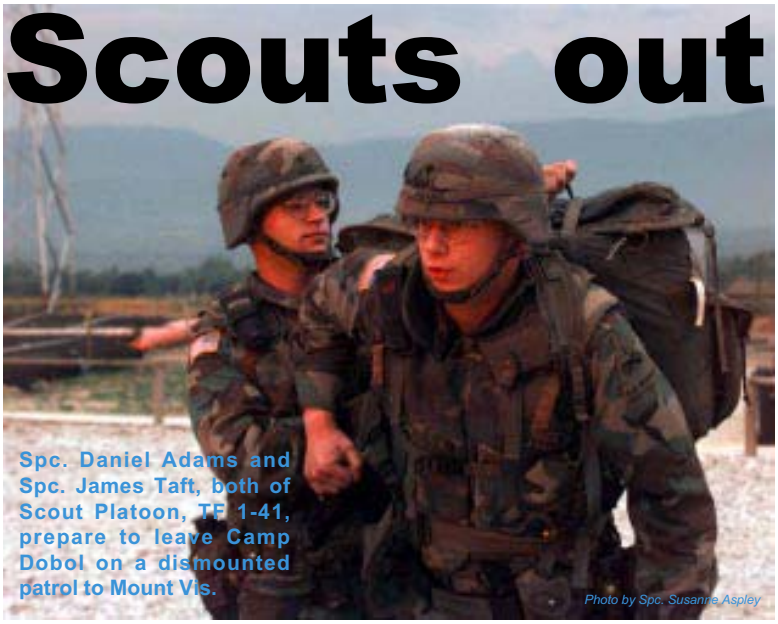
The Talon

THE TALON is produced in the interest of the servicemembers of Task Force Eagle. ***THE TALON*** is an Army-funded newspaper authorized for members of the U.S. Army overseas, under the provision of AR 360-81. Contents of ***THE TALON*** are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Task Force Eagle. ***THE TALON*** is published weekly by the 1st Infantry Division (Task Force Eagle) Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina APO AE 09789, Telephone MSE 551-5230, Sprint 762-5233. E-mail: talon@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil. Acquire the Talon and other Bonia-Herzegovina related items from theTFE homepage: www.1id.army.mil Printed by PrintComTuzla. Circulation: 6,500.

1st Infantry Division Commander . . . Maj. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs
Editor in Chief . . . . . Maj. William L. DuPont
364th MPAD Commander . . . . . Maj. Frank Partyka
OIC . . . . . 1st Lt. Robert M. Inouye
Editor . . . . . Sgt. William L. Geddes
1st Infantry Division PA NCOIC . . . . . Staff Sgt. Gregory W. Binford
Translator . . . . . Mirela Zunic

Read and pass along -- a Talon is a terrible thing to waste

Scouts out



Spc. Daniel Adams and Spc. James Taft, both of Scout Platoon, TF 1-41, prepare to leave Camp Dobol on a dismounted patrol to Mount Vis.

Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

By Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MPAD

HAN PJESAK, Bosnia-Herzegovina -- Recently, Task Force 1-41 successfully conducted three weapons storage site inspections simultaneously in the Han Pjesak area. All elements of the task force were staged, ready and on alert as the locations were searched to ensure compliance with the Dayton Peace Accord. The Scouts of TF 1-41, however, were the first soldiers out, completing reconnaissance before the unit moved in.

COVER OF DARKNESS - During the night, before the inspections were scheduled, the Scouts rolled out to provide security and armed escort for the Camp Dobol aviation team. Like clockwork, the convoy pulled into their tactical positions and posted guard. Here, the Air Force personnel set up radio communication with the support aircraft that circled the objectives throughout the night. In the early morning hours, the command post arrived. The Scouts immediately moved on before the sun had a chance to rise.

ON THE ROAD- Hitting the road again, the Scouts surveyed all of the major routes and locations key to the inspections. "The task force depends on us for immediate, timely information," said 1st Lt. Chris Murray, Scout Platoon leader, TF 1-41. "We checked the area before the inspection teams came in for civilian situations, massing, and status of routes. Our findings confirm or deny the battalion commander's plan."

ON THE JOB - Next, the Scouts shifted to a Republic of Serbia army base and established a stationary checkpoint. Under constant watch, no movement in the area went undetected. "In case of any unusual movement during the inspections, we can provide early warning to the Task Force." Murray said. Bravo Section of the Scout Platoon also manned an observation post in a neighboring area.

STAY ALERT - Sgt. Dennis Musselman, Alpha Section, Scout Platoon, said "We are the eyes and ears of the task force. The recon missions we do on these routes ensure that they are safe and passable for everyone else. Keeping aware and not losing interest is very important because we never know what can happen."

KNOWING THEIR TURF - The Scouts need to have a working knowledge of nearly 35,000 square kilometers, which is the area of responsibility belonging to TF 1-41. Spc. Tim Dunn, Alpha Section, said his peacekeeping mission with Operation Joint Guard is very different than the way Scouts are trained to operate. "This is a very high profile job," he said. "We are normally trained to operate low key and at night. But in Bosnia, we drive around with our headlights on and come into contact with many people."

CAMARADERIE - The bond of trust built between the Scouts is apparent in the good-natured interaction of the soldiers. "Many of us have been together for a couple of years, so we work well together." said Musselman, a native of Klamath Falls, Oregon.

JOB WELL DONE - After the mission concluded, the scouts returned to Camp Demi, then back 'home' to Camp Dobol, tired and dusty, but with their mission accomplished. "I have the best soldiers in the task force," said Murray. "They are disciplined, motivated and know how to get things done."

Info briefs

General orders

General Order (GO) 1 lives on, and troops supporting Operation Joint Guard must follow the restrictions. These restrictions help maintain the security, health, and welfare of U.S. forces. They prevent conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline, or of a nature to bring discredit upon the U.S. forces. They also improve relations with local nationals and friendly forces.

The prohibited activities under GO 1 are: taking, possessing, or shipping for personal use captured weapons; introduction, possession, use, sale, transfer, manufacture, or consumption of any alcoholic beverage; possessing, touching, using, or knowingly approaching without legal authority any unexploded munitions or ordnance, of any kind or description whatsoever; purchase, possession, use, sale, or introduction of privately-owned firearms, ammunition, and explosives; gambling of any kind, including sports pools, lotteries and raffles; selling, bartering, or exchanging any currency other than at the official host nation exchange rate; entrance into mosques or other sites of Islamic religious significance by non-Muslims unless directed by military authorities or compelled by military necessity; removing, possessing, selling, transferring, defacing, or destroying artifacts or national treasures.

GO 2 prohibits dining in local eating establishments not located on Task Force Eagle base camps.

GO 3 clarifies the restriction on the consumption of alcohol by soldiers assigned, attached or performing duties in the Task Force Eagle AOR. The introduction, possession, use, consumption, or manufacture of alcoholic beverages is prohibited, with limited exceptions. Before assuming consumption of alcohol falls within an exception, seek advice from your commander or TFE lawyer.

GO 1-3 are punitive. Soldiers who violate the GOs may face court-martial under Article 92, UCMJ, violation of or failure to obey a lawful general order or regulation. Maximum punishment is confinement for two years, reduction to E1, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and Dishonorable discharge. POC: CPT Huestis, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, MSE 553-3568.

The Talon Survey: Think your opinion is important? So do we! Fill it out. Fold it up. Mail it in. Or send us your answers via e-mail.

1. What is your unit?_____

2. Are you? ___Enlisted ___Warent officer ___Officer ___DOD civilian ___Other

3. What base camp are you located at?
___Bedrock ___Colt ___Comanche ___Demi ____ Dobol ____ Eagle Base
___Guardian ___McGovern Other_____

4. How often do you read The Talon?
___Every Week ___Occasionally ___Seldom ___Never

fold

5. If you never read The Talon, why?

6. Where do you usually get your copy from?
___Dining Facility
___From a friend
___Around your base camp where?

7. What day is The Talon available at your base camp?

8. How difficult is it to get a copy?
___Very easy ___Easy ___Difficult

9. What do you read in The Talon?
___CSM Column ___Info Briefs
___Safety Column ___Feature Articles
___Entire Talon ___Photo Story
___Comics (center of Talon)

10. What would you like to see added to The Talon?

11. What would you like to see taken out of The Talon?

12. What type of stories would you like to see in The Talon?

13. What do you do with The Talon after you read it?
___Throw it away ___send home ___Pass along to others

14. Did you know Task Force Eagle has a homepage?
___yes ___no

15. If yes, have you been to the website (www.1id.army.mil)?

16. Did you know The Talon can be downloaded from the TFE homepage? ___yes ___no

17. If yes, have you tried to download The Talon? ___yes ___no

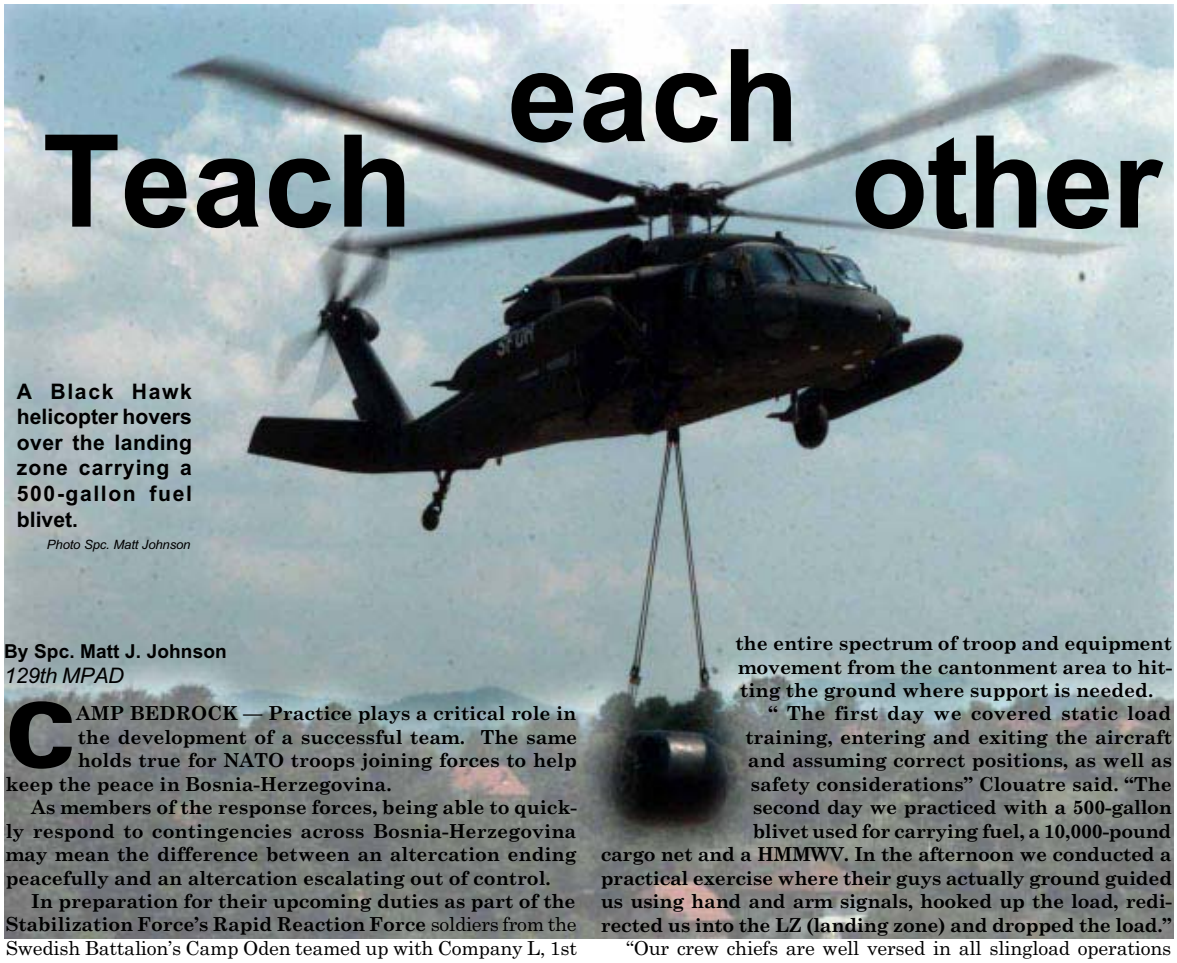
fold

Talon Office
364th MPAD JIB
Operation Joint Guard
Eagle Base, Tuzla
Bosnia-Herzegovina
APO AE 09789

MPS

Talon Office
364th MPAD JIB
Operation Joint Guard
Eagle Base, Tuzla
Bosnia-Herzegovina
APO AE 09789

Teach each other



A Black Hawk helicopter hovers over the landing zone carrying a 500-gallon fuel blivet.

Photo Spc. Matt Johnson

By Spc. Matt J. Johnson
129th MPAD

CAMP BEDROCK — Practice plays a critical role in the development of a successful team. The same holds true for NATO troops joining forces to help keep the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As members of the response forces, being able to quickly respond to contingencies across Bosnia-Herzegovina may mean the difference between an altercation ending peacefully and an altercation escalating out of control.

In preparation for their upcoming duties as part of the Stabilization Force's Rapid Reaction Force soldiers from the Swedish Battalion's Camp Oden teamed up with Company L, 1st Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment for slingload and troop movement training here.

"In Bosnia, we have multinational divisions. The soldiers we're supporting are members of the QRF (Quick Reaction Force) and the RRF and are not all Americans," said 1st Lt. Spencer J. Clouatre, platoon leader with Co. L. "It's important for these units to get their hands on our equipment and see how we work so if something should arise, we're able to respond quickly and put them on the ground."

Swedish soldiers seek cover from high winds behind a 500-gallon fuel blivet as a Black Hawk helicopter hovers into position.

Photo by Spc. Matt Johnson

"This is a totally new concept for us," said Maj. Sven Erin Hedgren, Swedish Battalion logistics officer. "This is very important because we may be used in other divisional areas and need our logistical issues to be transported by air."

The two-day training covered **the entire spectrum of troop and equipment movement from the cantonment area to hitting the ground where support is needed.**

" The first day we covered static load training, entering and exiting the aircraft and assuming correct positions, as well as safety considerations" Clouatre said. "The second day we practiced with a 500-gallon blivet used for carrying fuel, a 10,000-pound cargo net and a HMMWV. In the afternoon we conducted a practical exercise where their guys actually ground guided us using hand and arm signals, hooked up the load, redirected us into the LZ (landing zone) and dropped the load."

"Our crew chiefs are well versed in all slingload operations and are air assault qualified," Clouatre said. "We show them the right way to do it and then let them do it."

Although a new experience for many of the Swedish soldiers, they caught on quickly with both sides being open-minded and adapting well to each other.

"In aviation, we have a lot of regulations that govern how we do things, but their systems, weapons and equipment are different so modifications sometimes need to be made," Clouatre said. "We're very open to their suggestions and ideas as long as things fit our safety regulations and we feel secure about it. A lot of good ideas come out of the soldiers we're training."

"It's a little easier working with these guys because they speak English and pick up things very well," Clouatre said. "They were very enthusiastic and motivated."

"It's good training. It's different. I've never done this before," said Sgt. Sabine Trost, deputy mechanized infantry squad leader. "It's harder to do than it looks. It's hard to communicate with all the noise and wind."

The training precedes an exercise scheduled for the end of June in final preparation for the units to assume their responsibilities on the RRF in July and August, and the soldiers are looking forward to getting together again.

"Both their troops and ours like to see each other," Clouatre said. "It's something they'll remember for the rest of their lives."

"We've had more of a working relationship, so I don't know the persons," said Rifleman Pte Kataja. "But I welcome them down to Camp Oden."

"My hopes are we can cooperate more in the future," Hedgren said. "We all have a lot to learn from each other."

"Golden H

By Staff Sgt. Jerry A. Weber
129th MPAD

CAMP BEDROCK — A soldier steps out of his vehicle while on patrol and spots an object in the ditch below him. He picks up the object and discovers that he has a homemade hand grenade. Instead of reporting it to the patrol commander, he decides to try and find out how this tiny killer is designed.

As the soldier arrives in his tent, he starts playing with the hand grenade. A slip of the hand and a loud explosion follows. Screams and moans fill the smoky tent. The destruction from the small explosive is evident as the smoke clears, with members from the soldier's squad spread throughout the tent, all of them suffering from severe injuries.

Pandemonium follows with soldiers running around trying to figure out what happened. Amidst all the confusion, members of the medical platoon from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, here, take charge as they roll in with their ambulances and quickly start treating the injured. They evaluate the severity of the casualties and begin moving the injured to the aid station for treatment. A nine-line medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) call placed to the 498th Medical Company sends a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to transport the casualties to Blue Factory, west of Tuzla.

With the sounds of the Black Hawk echoing through the quarry below the base camp, the medics efficiently prepare the casualties for transport. As the helicopter lands, Staff Sgt. Joseph Cevasco, flight medic with the 498th, runs from the Black Hawk and decides the order in which the casualties need to be loaded. He grabs a medic team carrying a casualty on a transport litter, and directs them to the open doors of the Black Hawk. After the helicopter is full, it lifts from the helipad. Minutes later the Black Hawk returns, ending the MEDEVAC training exercise.

The simulated grenade explosion is a scenario that the intense training prior to coming into this war torn country should prevent. It is also a situation that is presented to many soldiers day in and day out, and is a good training aid.

"The exercise is designed to show the medics all the aspects of a medical situation in the field up to the point of placing the soldiers on an air MEDEVAC transport," said 1st Lt. Glenn E. Marsh, medical platoon leader for HHC.

The young soldiers must learn to work as a team to treat the casualties within the first hour, Marsh said. "The main goal of a medical exercise like this is to treat, evacuate and perform life-saving medical treatment all within the 'Golden Hour.' This first hour is when the chance of saving life, limb or eyesight increases by 80 percent."

While increasing the chance of survival for the casualties, unfamiliarity with any part of the mission for the medics could increase the chance for additional injuries.

One of the most dangerous times is when the helicopter makes its approach, said Chief Warrant Officer Paul E. Kahler, Black Hawk pilot for the 498th. "When landing, we produce winds in excess of 200 mph, which will cause any loose items and rocks to fly around. Take care of yourself and the patients so we don't create more injuries than there were when we came in."

To prevent further injuries, the medics with Task Force 2-2 Inf. and the 498th Med. Co. met prior to the exercise and conducted training on the proper way to approach and depart from the helicopter, and the loading procedure for the Black Hawk helicopter.

"The class that we conducted prior to the exercise made me feel more confident in my job for this real-world exercise," said Pfc. Shannon G. Oxford, a medic with HHC.

A real-*life* situation puts the importance of this training exercise into perspective. Spc. Larry Grantham, Jr., also a medic with HHC, recently was transferred from Camp McGovern where he treated a Bosniak child who stumbled on a mine, suffering a severe injury.

"During a training exercise, you can stop and think of your next move and what needs to be done," said Grantham. "When you see blood, you get nervous. You have to depend on your training because there isn't time to think what to do next, you just react."

"They performed well and handled me very professionally," said Pfc. Roscoe Harris, administrative clerk with the 108th Military Police Company, here, who acted as one of the injured soldiers. "I feel if my life depended on the medics doing their job, I would have survived."

Hour"

From top right, clockwise, **Capt. Charlie Nham, the surgeon for HHC, Task Force 2-2, treats a casualty with the assistance of medics during a mass casualty exercise... Members of TF 2-2 medical section load a casualty onto a Black Hawk helicopter during the exercise... Staff Sgt. Joseph A. Cevasco, flight medic with the 498th Medical Company, guides members of TF 2-2 as they carry a casualty to a Black Hawk helicopter during the exercise... *Background,* Members of the 108th Military Police Company provide security for the 498th Medical Company Blackhawk helicopter as it departs after picking up casualties during the exercise.**

Future of aviation

1st Lt. Shannon Huffman (right) and Spc. Kevin Ruef, both of 1st Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment, discuss maintenance issues while looking over controls in the cockpit of an Apache.

Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins

By Sgt. Steven Collins
129th MPAD

CAMP COMANCHE – Generals and contractors talk about the future of Army aviation in terms of larger and more complex weapons systems. Cobras were exchanged for Apaches, and Apaches will someday yield to sleeker, faster and more advanced attack helicopters.

However, the future of Army aviation is not in the technology, but in the young soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment. One crew – 1st Lt. Shannon M. Huffman, Chief Warrant Officer Matthew B. Witlin and Spc. Kevin D. Ruef – is typical of the real future of Army aviation, when talented and confident humans will be called upon to fly bigger and better machines.

"There's a certain level of confidence that is required to fly the Apache," said Huffman, an aviator in the 1st Bn., 229th Avn. Reg. "You need to have confidence to do a good job. Flying the Apache is a definite challenge."

Huffman is a relative newcomer to the Apache, the Army's premier attack helicopter. A 1993 graduate of Duke University, she received her commission through ROTC and completed Army flight school in 1994. She was one of a fortunate few chosen to pilot the Apache, a complex aircraft that pushes the technological envelope.

"It is an interesting aircraft and an interesting mission," said Huffman, a native of Anchorage, Alaska. "You have to learn the weapons systems in addition to knowing the principles of flying. The Apache is an aerial weapons platform."

Huffman is a gunner, the front seat occupant of the two-seat helicopter. As a commissioned officer, she serves as the air maneuver commander, operates the weapons systems, watches where her craft is in relation to other aircraft and other assets. All her flight hours have been in the front seat, learning the systems and expanding her abilities.

Keeping the aircraft flying is a two-person job, and Huffman's "backseater" is Witlin, a pilot who has been in the Army since 1993. A graduate of the University of Arizona, Witlin is the pilot-in-command, the person who actually pilots the aircraft and ensures the safety of the helicopter and its crew.

"We both have to be aviators," said Witlin. "The frontseater focuses on navigation and takes radio calls and coordinates movements with ground commanders. I am focused on the aircraft, its systems and on the safety of the aircraft."

A person not acquainted with the aircraft might be tempted to assume that Huffman had to work harder than her male counterparts in becoming a pilot. But she is quick to mention that the Apache does not discriminate according to gender.

"There is nothing about the aircraft that makes it easier for one gender or the other," she said. "The Apache is a challenge for both men and women."

As far as she and her female colleagues are concerned, questions of gender are not relevant in the 1st Bn., 229th Avn. Reg.

"We don't think of ourselves as female lieutenants or female pilots," said Huffman. "We are simply soldiers and Army pilots."

Both pilots are quick to mention that they are only as good as the support they receive from the ground. Ruef is the crew chief for Witlin's and Huffman's aircraft. A three-and-a-half year Army veteran, Ruef is in charge of ensuring that the Apache is ready for flight, a never-ending job.

"You put in a full day here, there's no doubt about it," said Ruef, a native of Auburn, Wash. "Not only do we have to stay with the same aircraft, (the crew chiefs) try to help everyone else on the flightline. We all put in full days."

Ruef performs daily maintenance on the aircraft, including a daily two-and-a-half hour maintenance check. If he misses something or fails to adequately prepare the aircraft for flight, and the aircraft goes down, he takes the fall.

"I guess I would be the one who goes to jail," said Ruef.

"We don't realize that we are actually working on an expensive helicopter," said Ruef of himself and fellow crew chiefs. "If a screw is loose, we tighten it. If a part needs to be replaced, we replace it. We just do our jobs."

For Huffman, the challenge is the constant application of principles she has learned at every level of training, from ROTC to flight school to Apache training.

"It is a demanding aircraft. You never stop learning on this aircraft," she said.

Patrolling with purpose

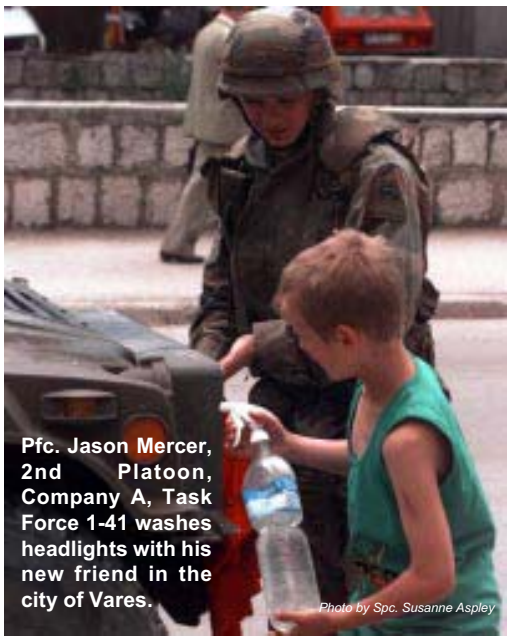
Pfc. Thomas Johnson, gunner with 2nd Platoon, Company A, Task Force 1-41, slams a bottle of water during the mandatory water break on a hot and dusty patrol in the mountains surrounding Camp Demi.

Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

By Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MPAD

CAMP DEMI — The roads (to use the term loosely) are cut into the mountainsides surrounding the city of Vares, several hours from Camp Demi. The convoy of armored HMMWVs from Company A, Task Force 1-41, kick up a dense trail of dust, leaving the gunner in the last vehicle looking like the abominable earth man by the end of the patrol.

Mechanized infantrymen from Team B, Co. A, TF 1-41, have just begun their long, hot day. The first stop is a firing range tucked in a hidden valley where a Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina army unit is qualifying on M-60 machine guns. The soldiers set up security as 2nd Lt. Robert Beville, 2nd Platoon leader, Co. A, questions the unit's commander, checks his paperwork, and ensures everything is in order.



Pfc. Jason Mercer, 2nd Platoon, Company A, Task Force 1-41 washes headlights with his new friend in the city of Vares.

Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

"The unit using the range now is usually squared away and was a top unit during the war," Beville explained. "They received weapons as part of the train and equip program authorized in the GFAP (General Framework Agreement for Peace). The theory is, if the Serbs and Federation are equal, they won't fight. So the Federation side is authorized to use this range."

Next stop; the marketplace lining a deep stone canal that runs through the city of Vares. The lieutenant leaves with two soldiers and his translator while the rest of the team stands by. Monitoring local opinions is an important part of the daily mission. With the upcoming elections and ongoing Stabilization Forces operations, Beville explained that attitudes can change everyday. "We need to be ready and aware of what is going on. We are here to maintain the peace, yet provide a reaction force if the situation gets out of hand."

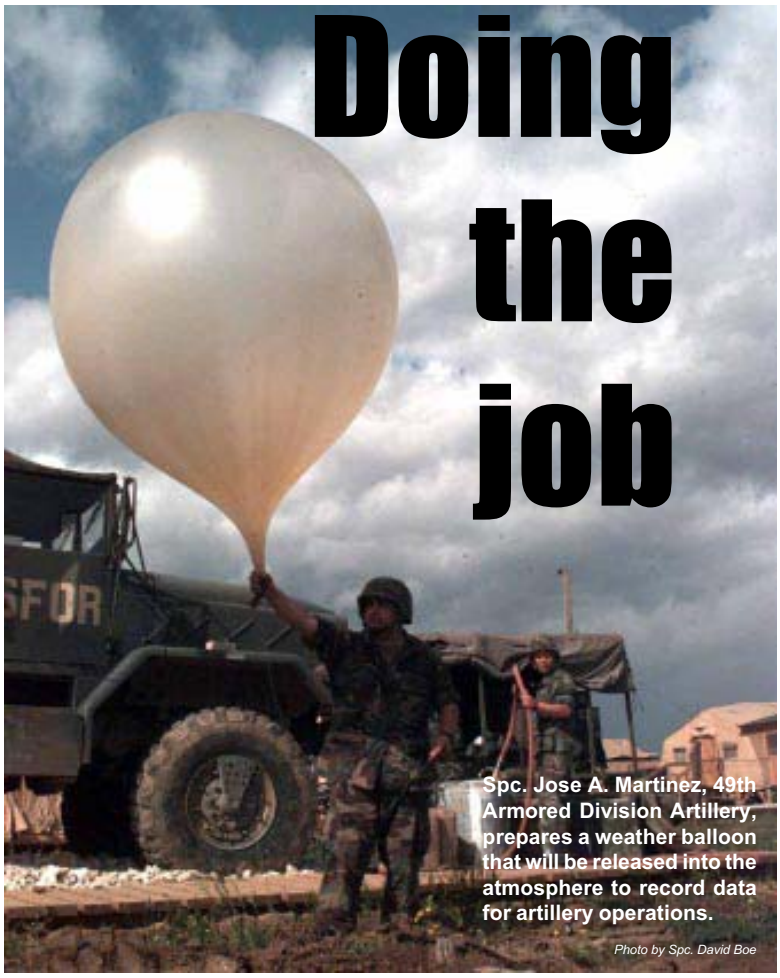
A thin, friendly boy stops by the soldiers near the HMMWVs and helps out washing headlights. Pfc. Steve Marrero said that the kids make the hectic schedule and long patrols worth it. "Sometimes the adults don't seem like they care, but the kids are the hope for this country," he said.

Before returning to Camp Demi, the Fort Riley, Kan. soldiers are detoured and tasked by Co. A headquarters to set up an OE254 antenna to communicate with another team patrolling in the area. "We are always concerned about force protection so we report back to headquarters (often)," Beville said. "If one of our patrols loses contact, we try to reach them anyway we can. Commo is critical."

Beville said that by conducting presence patrols, the people realize they need to comply with the GFAP. "If they don't, we'll see them," he said. "Day or night, we will be around eventually. If the cats away the mice will play, but with us, the cat is always around. There is a real sense of purpose in our patrols."

Doing the job

By Spc. David Boe
364th MPAD



Spc. Jose A. Martinez, 49th Armored Division Artillery, prepares a weather balloon that will be released into the atmosphere to record data for artillery operations.

Photo by Spc. David Boe

MCGOVERN BASE – It's a 155mm artillery round that screams through the air at well over 500 feet per second, and it can wipe out a platoon of enemy soldiers in a split-second of utter destruction. Yet, despite its seemingly steel invincibility, the artillery round is helpless to the whims of the Earth's atmosphere. It's just a matter of simple physics.

"If you think about the way artillery fires, that round spends a lot of time in the air," said Sgt. 1st Class John C. Ruthroff. "The air could be doing a lot of different things to it – pushing it one way or another, slowing it down. The wind, temperature and air pressure all have an effect on where that round is going to land."

Ruthroff isn't a physicist. He is the section chief for the field artillery meteorological section at McGovern Base. He and his team of seven National Guardsmen are a vital link in the chain of information the big guns need to successfully put steel on target. Ruthroff, a Guardsman with the 139th Field Artillery, Indiana, said his section's mission basically consists of collecting meteorological data from the atmosphere and sending it on to the artillery fire direction control, where it is then applied to the aiming process. Without such information, said Ruthroff, the high-caliber punch of the howitzers would be diminished.

"So, especially for first-round accuracy, metro is pretty important," he said.

Metro is short for meteorological. It's the name of choice for the people who work it.

"It's always been Metro," said Spc. Carol S. Breit, 25, a meteorological crewmember with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 35th Division Artillery Meteorological Team, Hutchinson, Kan. "All of us say it, even the active-duty Army."

Guardsmen from three states makeup the section serving at McGovern. Working together for the first time, the soldiers provide daily meteorological reports for the onsite artillery. And all it takes is blowing up a large balloon and letting it go.

Actually, it's not as simple as that.

"The balloon has to be filled to a specific amount for the radio sonde (the devise attached to the balloon that records the data), so it goes through the zones of atmosphere at the prescribed time," said Sgt. Caroline K. Rieger-Siebel, 42, HHB, 35th Div. Met. Team. "You have to achieve your rate of rise with your inflation."

As the balloon floats through each zone in the atmosphere, the radio sonde collects data on wind speed, temperature, and air pressure, which in turn is received and tabulated by computer back on the ground.

Rieger-Siebel said safety is a major factor in their mission as well. Because of limited supplies of helium, the balloons often have to be filled with bottled hydrogen, which is highly flammable (i.e., the Hindenburg). "You ground yourself, you ground your equipment, and make sure there's no air in the balloon," she said.

"We weren't people just taking up space; there obviously was a need for us here. What we did really helped and that makes me feel happy that I was here."

—— Spc. Charles E. Odell

The whole operation, while complex and potentially dangerous, is considered routine by the Guardsmen. Because of this, said Rieger-Siebel, they are amused when other soldiers at McGovern request to launch the balloon. She said they have had everyone from infantrymen and officers to interpreters come for the "thrill" of letting a balloon go.

"Captain Hamilton (artillery commander at McGovern) got a big charge out of it the other day," said Rieger-Siebert. We told him what time we would be flying, so he came out and got to release the balloon, and as soon as he did, he said, 'Man, that's cool!'"

"I learned a lot from them," said Capt. David M. Hamilton, commander, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery. "They walked me through each step in launching the balloon. I was really impressed."

Hamilton, whose howitzers the metro section supports, said the National Guardsmen are well-trained and organized, and contributed equally to the U.S. Army mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "They are very dependable," he said. "You can count on them to do their job."

But only for a few more weeks. With its mandated 270-day limit nearing, the Guardsmen are scheduled to depart Bosnia-Herzegovina in a few weeks after a deployment that started last year in November.

"I feel we did our job here and did it well," said Spc. Charles E. Odell, 24. "We weren't people just taking up space; there obviously was a need for us here. What we did really helped and that makes me feel happy that I was here."

Contraband? Think twice

Pfc. Wendy R. Tokach
129th MPAD

When it comes time to pack up and re-deploy, or when a special occasion is near, many soldiers like to find little gifts to remember the mission by or to give to loved ones.

Soldiers should think twice about what they send through the mail. Before sealing, stamping and addressing that package they should ask themselves two questions; Can anything in this package be considered contraband? Is anything in the package which violates General Order number 1?

General Order number 1 prohibits;

Taking, possessing or shipping for personal use captured weapons.

Introduction, possession, use, sale, transfer, manufacture or consumption of any alcoholic beverage.

Possessing, touching, or knowingly approaching without legal authority any unexploded munitions or ordinance.

Purchase possession, use, sale or introduction of privately-owned firearms, ammunition and explosives.

Removing, possessing, selling, transferring, defacing, or destroying archeological artifacts or national treasures.

Before they are sent out of country, all packages are put through an X-ray machine to determine whether or not any object inside is contraband.

"We have the machine to enforce General Order number 1," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Brad R. Walker, 401st Expedition Area Air Base Group. "It usually identifies someone that is mailing war souvenirs or alcohol. It can show us everything in the package, even the boot laces on a pair of boots."

The X-ray machine is basically the same as the one used in most airports, with a video screen that shows the outline of the contents in the package, and a metal detector that sounds when set off.

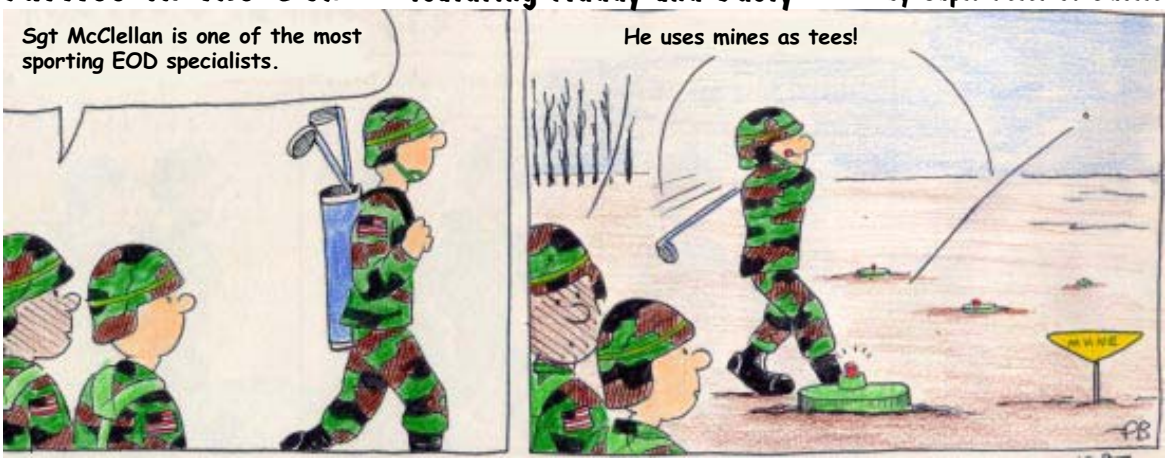
"Some soldiers may not realize they are doing wrong, like that all knives must be sheathed when sent through the mail, but most of the time they know what they are doing," Walker said. "When something is not stated on the customs form, they know they are mailing it. We have caught some pretty wild stuff that (people) have been trying to send through."

When mailing any package soldiers must fill out a customs form and sign it. The package then is sent through the X-ray machine and if something odd is identified, personnel check the customs claim. If the object in question is not identified on the customs form, the package is then confiscated and paper work is done to document that contraband has been identified. Postal workers then turn the package over to CID to be investigated.

Soldiers found violating this order are subject to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for violating a general lawful order.

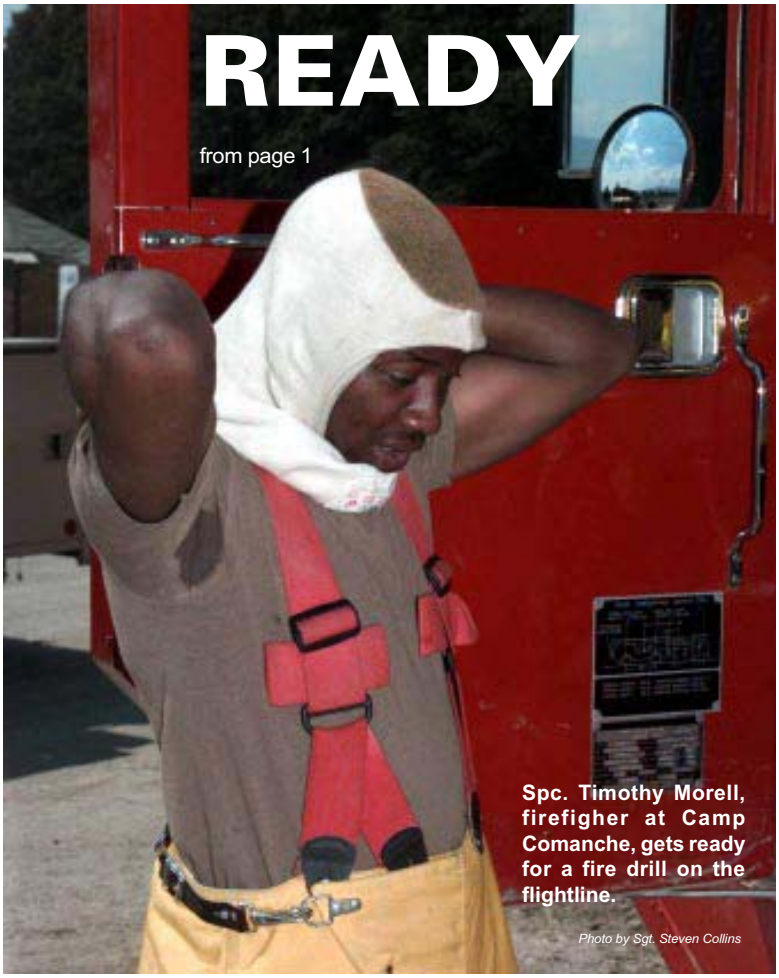
"Even if it just looks like something that may be a war souvenir, then we have to confiscate it," Walker said. "People just don't think that they are going to be caught. Just because they weren't told that every package is checked they think it will get through. We can see everything, nothing gets through. They do know about General Order number 1, they should just follow it."

Turtles in the Box featuring Muddy and Dusty by Capt. Peter J. Buotte



READY

from page 1



Spc. Timothy Morell, firefigher at Camp Comanche, gets ready for a fire drill on the flightline.

Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins

sound the fire alarm bell in the middle of the tent. There's no pole to shimmy down, but the firefighters will be suited up and on the firetruck housed next door in minutes. In fact, they can be at a tent fire within the camp in three minutes.

"All of the team is never really off at any given time," said Sgt. James Fields assistant fire chief, "and if we get that call we'll know what to do."

Such a call did alert the team at 6:45 a.m., May 26, when a Bradley Fighting Vehicle caught fire near Camp Bedrock. Morell was already awake and took the call. "That one pumped us up. My heart started racing," said Morell, firefighter, "and we swung into action."

Leaving Fields behind to monitor the radio and phone, Morell, Cpl. Jerome Fryar, and Sgt. Rickie Sabb were at the site in a record time of 12 minutes.

"You couldn't ask for a better time," said Sabb, Camp Comanche fire chief. "That's with a two-vehicle convoy."

When going into a firefighting action, each member has a special role, although all the firefighters are trained to drive and operate the firetruck. Sabb, riding with the driver, coordinates and supervises the action. Fryar operates the firetruck pump, Morell clears the hose, and Fields stays with the phone, keeping communications open.

"Team" appropriately applies to these soldiers. "It's like we can read each other's minds," said Sabb. "We all look out for each other and check each other's equipment. If I drop a glove, one of my teammates will pick it up." The members of Sabb's team are Fields, Morell, and Fryar, who's in charge of maintenance.

As Guard members each soldier has a civilian career. Sabb is a South Carolina state trooper, Morell is a South Carolina Department of Transportation employee, and Fields and Fryar are security guards.

The Comanche team has two 2500L firetrucks that function as crash-rescue vehicles as well as firefighting trucks. Each has a 660 gallon water and 72 gallon foam capacity that can be dispersed on the go, "pump and roll." They are front and rear drive capable with roof and bumper turrets. The firefighters can get water support to a height of approximately 15 stories.

"We perform continuous preventative maintenance on these vehicles. They have to be ready to go anytime just like us," said Fields. "They're good-running trucks."

The team's primary responsibility is fire prevention and control on the Camp Comanche flightline. "If an aircraft radios the tower with an emergency, the tower will radio us on a direct line," said Sabb. The team will put on its "bunker" gear (pants, jacket, boots, and air packs), and have the firetruck at the site within three minutes. "We conduct drills regularly to keep that time to a minimum," said Morell.

"Knowing these guys are available for emergencies gives us piece of mind," said Chief Warrant Officer Art Payton, maintenance test pilot, Company B, 1st Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment.

The camp area is another priority. "Besides being ready to put out fires, we perform a variety of fire prevention duties," said Sabb.

Should a fuel spill occur on the flightline, they will assist aviation personnel and Brown & Root with the cleanup. "If a fire never starts, we won't have to worry about putting it out. A fuel spill is a potential fire hazard," said Sabb. "We would insure the fuel supply is cut off and contain the fuel so it's not an environmental hazard as well."

Master Sgt. Earnest Jones, Camp Commanche mayor, relies on the team to assist with his fire prevention program. "They do weekly tent inspections and note any problems, which I pass on to commanders so we can get them corrected," said Jones. "Doing my job well would be impossible without the 264th here."

"We work closely with the mayor," said Sabb. "We check the tents to make sure material isn't hung up that shouldn't be and there's at least four feet of walkway through tents. Since a tent can burn in two to three minutes, you don't want anything in the way if you need to get out fast," Once a month the team coordinates day and night fire drills to fine-tune reaction and readiness to fire hazards for Camp Comanche soldiers.

"It's like we can read each other's minds. We all look out for each other and check each other's equipment. If I drop a glove, one of my teammates will pick it up."

— Sgt. Rickie Sabb

"I hope every day is quiet here," said Fields. Other than the call to Camp Bedrock, the 264th firefighting team at Camp Comanche has not had to respond to an emergency. They hope their deployment stays that way with personnel continuing to be safe and equipment undamaged.